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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1644

NICO CERLETTI

Examiner: D. Romeo

APPLICATION NO: 09/813,271

FILED: MARCH 20, 2001

FOR: NEW PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIOLOGICALLY
ACTIVE PROTEIN

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (c)

Sir:

This amendment is submitted as part of a Request for Continued Examination under 35 U.S.C. § 132 and is responsive to the above referenced Office Action, dated October 23, 2003, having a period for response set to expire January 23, 2004. Applicants also herein request a three month extension for this response as allowed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). Applicants respectfully request the following amendment be entered and the claims considered in light thereof.

Amendments to the Claims are on page 2. Amendments to the Specification are on page 3. Applicants' comments to the Office Action begin on page 4 in the section entitled "Response".